

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

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Do you identify as a member of a 2SLGBTQIA+ community?

No

What role are you running for?

Regional Councillor, Waterloo

What do you believe are the most critical issues for the local 2SLGBTQIA+ community? If elected, how would you work with the local community to address these issues?

As an ally of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, I will not presume to know what the most critical issues are at this time. If elected I would consider it my responsibility to hear from members of the community about what is most important to them. As a person with physical challenges, I understand first hand problems faced by marginalized individuals. I want to make sure the 2SLGBTQIA+ community has an equal voice at the regional table.

Have you ever participated in 2SLGBTQIA+ Cultural Competency Training?

Yes

Systemic homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are still prevalent in our community, resulting in significant socioeconomic disparities within 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. If elected, how will you combat homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia?

I believe that people of all sexual orientations are worthy of the same dignity and respect, as well as the same socioeconomic opportunities. If elected, I will attend and promote various events and initiatives that support the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and discourage phobic attitudes directed at them.

If elected, how would you address the ongoing issues of homelessness and mental health, especially as they disproportionately affect members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community?

In addition to supporting events and initiatives that promote the well being of members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, I seek to implement upstream measures which will reduce or prevent poverty and homelessness for all.

Do you agree with the statement that "trans rights are human rights, and must be protected as such?"

Yes

What is one motion would you bring to council that you think will improve the lives of specifically queer people, racialized individuals and/or marginalized residents and why?

I wish to ensure that all public spaces within Waterloo Region are designated as safe spaces for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, racialized and other marginalized individuals.

When thinking about our schools, do you agree that 2SLGBTQIA+ representation in books and lessons is critical at all grade levels? How would you support 2SLGBTQIA+ students in schools?

Increasing the representation of 2SLGBTQIA+ members in educational resources throughout all grade levels will be advantageous to all members of the community and the region as a whole. It is hoped that seeing themselves reflected within school curriculum will reduce feelings of alienation among this population. In addition, I will support mental health resources specifically directed to youth who identify as part of this community or those who are questioning.